Kentuckiana Digital Library

http://www.kyvl.org

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Kentuckiana Digital Library is built to enhance scholarship, research and lifelong learning through the establishment of access to shared digital archival collections in the state of Kentucky. It also provides guidance and instruction for Kentucky libraries, archives, historical societies and museums on applying appropriate technologies used in the production of digital library resources.

DIGITAL LIBRARY DEFINITION

A Digital Library is an organized collection of selected digital resources created to support scholarship, research and teaching. Through the use of appropriate technological standards, a Digital Library is created to facilitate persistent access to and resource discovery of selected digital resources.

KENTUCKIANA DIGITAL LIBRARY OVERVIEW

Background
The Kentucky Virtual Library was first conceived by the State-Assisted Academic Library Council of Kentucky (SAALCK); comprised of heads of the eight state-assisted university libraries. SAALCK's vision included the provision of general access to the wealth of special collections materials held by their academic libraries, which had been previously limited to visitors to their campuses. With the 1997 Postsecondary Education Improvement Act, under the leadership of Governor Paul Patton's administration and the Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE), funding for the digital library opened the doors to wider participation by a variety of libraries across the state, including public and special libraries. The KYVL is seeking collaboration with privately funded institutions as well. Prior to the KYVL funding, the planning committee successfully won federal funding from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) to assist its planning of implementation.

Kentuckiana Digital Library Work Group
See http://www.kyvl.org/html/about/committees/kentuckiana.shtml

Kentuckiana Digital Library Selection Focus
Collections and subsets of collections selected will have a strong Kentucky orientation as well as broad appeal on geographic, content and study levels. The materials will be unique or not widely available. Collections will be proposed by archivists at the repositories based on their evaluation of the materials' appeal and appropriateness.

Central Site Management
The University of Kentucky was selected by KYVL to manage the ongoing technological infrastructure for the Kentuckiana Digital Library. In this role, UK manages the systems infrastructure for the digital library, creates and conducts training modules on digital library technology and performs digital conversion of selected archival material from around the state.

Project Planning

Proposal Form
Project planning for projects included in the Kentuckiana Digital Library develops as a dialog between a contributing archive and the central digitization center at the University of Kentucky. Before a dialog begins, a project proposal form is completed by the contributing archive.

Copyright Issues
Contributing archives are responsible for investigating copyright issues in regard to digital assets. The following digital assets management form is utilized when a collection is digitized for inclusion in the KDL.

TECHNOLOGICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

SGML/XML Database
The Archival Finding Aids Collection and the Full-Text Archive are managed by the DLXS SGML/XML database licensed by the University of Michigan. All resources included in the SGML/XML Database can be browsed and searched via full-text.

Digital Archival Objects
The actual digitized objects selected from archival collections. Can include image based material such as photographs and sound files. These items are linked to through the Archival Finding Aids Collection.

Digital Library Server
Our digital library server runs on redhat LINUX.

Forthcoming Projects

Beyond the Shelf: Serving Historic Kentuckiana Through Virtual Access

The KYVL is working with the University of Kentucky to digitize and provide full-text access to pre-1924 works dealing with the history and heritage of Kentucky. Approximately 1,500 selected titles were microfilmed during an NEH preservation microfilming project conducted by UK from 1986-1995. A microfilm to digital image process is used to create the digital page images and searchable text. Many titles were originally selected from J. Winston Coleman, Jr.'s Bibliography of Kentucky History, the standard bibliography for Kentucky history before 1950. Topics include county histories; early explorations and settlements; military expeditions, battles, and campaigns; and reminiscences, recollections, and memoirs.

This two-year project has been funded in part by an Institute of Museum and Library Services National Leadership Grant for Preservation and Digitization.

Digital Access for WPA Photographs of Tennessee Valley Authority Archaeological Projects

The KYVL is working with the University of Kentucky William S. Webb Museum of Anthropology, the Frank H. McClung Museum at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, and the Alabama Museum of Anthropology at the University of Alabama, to digitize and provide online access to approximately 7,500 photographs taken by Works Progress Administration workers of archaeological projects conducted in preparation for the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) dam construction in the 1930s.

This two-year project has been funded in part by an Institute of Museum and Library Services National Leadership Grant for Preservation and Digitization.

In Black & White: A Photographic Collection of African Americans in the Bluegrass

The Lexington History Museum, African American Studies and Research Program at the University of Kentucky, and the Kentucky Virtual Library are working together to build a photographic history of African Americans in the Bluegrass during segregation. (Image courtesy Kentucky Historical Society)

C. Frank Dunn Photographs Collection, 1900-1954, bulk 1920-1940

The collection contains many photos of Lexington and Frankfort residences and businesses, Kentucky highways, horses, industries, sports, and river and mountain scenes. Many were published in *Kentucky Progress Magazine* and in the Lexington press. There are an estimated 4,600 prints in the collection. The digitization of this collection is a collaborative effort of the Kentucky Historical Society and the Kentucky Virtual Library.
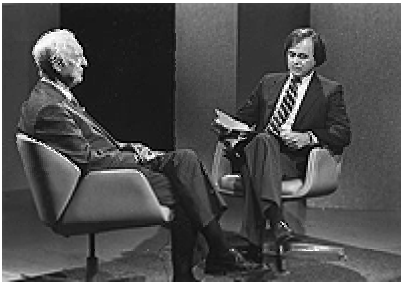
John Jacob Niles Photographic Collection, 1892-1980

The collection consists of 1,596 photographs, centered on the life and work of John Jacob Niles and the members of his family. Many of the photos of were used for concert publicity shots. Niles was photographed by famous photographers as well and included are works by Van Deren Coke, Alfred Eisenstaedt, George Kossuth, and Doris Ulmann. In addition, the collection contains photos of early zeppelins and airplanes, and even includes some photos of the Wright brother?s first flight. The digitization of this collection is a collaborative effort of the University of Kentucky Audio-Visual Archives and the Kentucky Virtual Library.

Louis Edward Nollau Nitrate Photographic Print Collection, circa 1885 – 1966

This collection contains 4,813 prints primarily of University of Kentucky. The original print sizes are 5 X 7 or smaller. Professor of Engineering Drawing at the University of Kentucky for 49 years, Louis Edward Nollau was also a prolific photographer. Because of his interest in photography and the college, Nollau was the first "official" campus photographer. The date span for the majority of the Nollau Photographic prints is during Frank McVey's presidency, 1917 - 1940. There are other photographers who contributed to the collection: "Kentuckian" (University yearbook) staff, University Public Relations staff, Leon Frankel, James Wells, John Wyatt and unknown individuals. The date spans for these photographers work are generally 1885 - 1903 and 1941 - 1966. The Nitrate Photographic Print Collection is divided into two series: University of Kentucky Series and Non - University of Kentucky Series.

UK Oral History Program's "Initiative 2003"

The University of Kentucky Oral History Program is internationally recognized for its outstanding collection of over 6,000 oral history interviews that are contained in over one hundred different projects. The Oral History Program's "Initiative 2003" celebrates the thirtieth anniversary of the establishment of the program. It honors the thousands of Kentuckians who have shared their memories with future generations. As part of this celebration, the Oral History Program will make available on the KYVL Kentuckiana Digital Library web site throughout the coming year full-text interview transcripts from each of the oral history projects in the Oral History Collection. Interview highlights currently available:
Onassis (Jacqueline Kennedy), May 13, 1981,
King (Dr. Martin Luther, Jr.) March 18, 1964,
Malcolm X, June 2, 1964.